Power Generation in Tenth Plan

148. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:††
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector's poor performance in power sector has forced the Government to take steps with the States to improve the power generation in Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, whether Centre has decided to formulate policy guidelines for granting multiple distribution licence under New Electricity Bill;

(c) if so, the main features thereof;

(d) what has been the actual capacity addition upto June 15, 2003, in thermal and hydro-fields; and

(e) the steps Centre proposes to take to set certain portion for production by private sector during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Power Generation in Tenth Plan

(a) The performance of Private Sector has not been encouraging during the Ninth Plan and only 29% of the capacity addition target of 17589 MW was actually achieved in the Private Sector.

The Tenth Plan capacity addition target of 41110 MW envisages capacity addition by the Private Sector of 7121 MW and the rest by the Central and the State public sector undertakings.

(b) and (c) Section 14 of the Electricity Act 2003 provides that the Appropriate Commission may grant a license to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through theirown distribution system within the same area, subject to the conditions that the applicant for grant of licence within the same area shall, without prejudice to the other conditions or requirements under the Act, comply with the additional requirements (including the capital adequacy, credit worthiness or code of conduct) as may be prescribed by the Government.

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vayalar Ravi.

(d) During the 10th Plan, a capacity of 3,026 MW has been added till 15th June, 2003 comprising 2,291 MW thermal and 735 MW hydro.

(e) Of the 7121 MW identified for commissioning during 10th Plan under the Private Sector, projects totalling 648 MW have already been commissioned.

The government is closely monitoring the progress of identified projects. Review meetings are held with the respective State Governments, promoters and the financial institutions with a view to remove bottlenecks and avoid slippage of these projects from the 10th Plan.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, the hon. Minister has confessed that the private sector has not fulfilled a major portion of its target; I have no quarrel on that, and it is a fact. Now the point, is naturally the burden is on the Central and the State Governments. In this connection, the Ninth Plan target could not be reached; the Tenth Plan target is 41,110 MW, as you rightly put it. Though the State Electricity Boards have to perform their role, unfortunately, almost all the State Electricity Boards are under financial difficulties. So, they are not able to reach their targets and complete the projects. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what extent you propose to extend financial asistance to all the State Electricity Boards, especially after the State Electricity Boards' power to decide on the electricity bills has been taken over from them? To what extent you are going to help them?

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: सभापति जी नवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में निजी क्षेत्र को जो लक्ष्य दिया गया था वे उस लक्ष्य को पूरा करने में सफल नहीं हुए, यह सत्य है। इसलिए दसवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में अधिक लक्ष्य राज्य सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार ने स्वयं लिए हैं। इसमें राज्य सरकारों को जो लक्ष्य दिया गया है उसमें धन की कमी नहीं आएगी। जो ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के सार्वजनिक उपक्रम हैं--पॉवर फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन और रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन कारपोरेशन, ये जो हमारी संस्थाएं हैं, ये हमारी संस्थायें हैं। ऊर्जा निर्माण के क्षेत्र में यदि राज्य सरकारें धन सहायता चाहती हैं तो इन दो संस्थाओं के माध्यम से ऊर्जा निर्माण के क्षेत्र में धन सहायता की जाती है। इसलिए राज्य विद्युत बोर्डों की स्थिति बिल्कुल आज चिंता का विषय है। लेकिन जो हमने अपना लक्ष्य तय किया है, जो राज्य सरकारों को लक्ष्य दिया है, उसके निर्माण में इन दोनों संस्थाओं के माध्यम से धन सहायता दी जायेगी। इसलिए धन की कमी नहीं आयेगी।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, in the last para of the answer the Minister has stated that the Government is closely monitoring the progress of identified projects. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the point that while having a discussion with the officers of the Kerala State Electricity Board, he promised to supply 180 MW power from the Eastern Sector as the cost of the Kayamkulam Project is a little high and it has not been completed so far. He also agreed that Athirapalli Thermal Power Project, which is pending, would be cleared. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to fulfill the promise of supplying 180 MW of power from the Eastern Sector to Kerala as well as complete the Athirapalli Project. When are you proposing to do it? Will you do it immediately?

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य का जो सुझाव है, उस सुझाव पर निश्चित रूप से विचार किया जायेगा। जो ईस्टर्न रीजन से हमारे पास सरप्लस बिजली है, जो सदर्न रीजन को दी जाती है, उसमे से 80 मेगावाट बिजली जो केरल को देनी है, वह निश्चित रूप में दी जाएगी। इसके अलावा दसवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में हमारे जो नये प्रोजेक्ट ऊर्जा के निर्माण के बन रहे हैं, उसमें सदर्न रीजन है और विशेषकर केरल है। केरल को 435 मेगावाट ऊर्जा दी जायेगी।

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, it is good that the Minister has admitted that there is a slippage in the Ninth Plan. Not only the slippage, actually, if you compare it with other sectors, the slippage in the power sector has been the maximum. If we analyse the reasons, the major reason is the lopsided emphasis on private sector's capability to generate power. Now, the difficulty is that in the Tenth Plan also there will definitely be a slippage because in the Electricity Bill that we have passed, there is a total bias against the public sector investment, in a sense that you have waived the private sector power producers from paying the surcharge so that the cream of the business goes to the private sector. The rest of the sector, which has a greater responsibility towards fulfilling the Plan targets, will be totally lost. Therefore, at the time of the passing of the Electricity Bill, the Minister said here that a number of issues where the Standing Committee had unanimous recommendations, and on issues on which even proposals which were ultimately passed as amendments to the Bill, and which were not examined by the Standing Cojmmittee, with regard to some of them he would immediately bring forward amendments. Sir, I do not know whether in your long political career

you know of a Government, which while introducing a Bill in a House says that it will come forward with an amendment. But there was a specific assurance of bringing in some amendments in the Monsoon Session itself. We do not hear anything from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister or from the Government about bringing in those amendments. I think the power sector is going to suffer on that account. Can the Minister specifically mention when this is going to be done?

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: सभापति महोदय, जो विद्युत कानून, 2003 जिसे संसद के दोनों सदनों ने विधेयक के रूप में पारित किया, उस समय चर्चा में, मैंने यह सदन के सामने रखा था कि इस कानून के बनने के बाद पुराने जो तीन कानून हमारे देश में अस्तित्व में थे, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी एक्ट 1910, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी सप्लाई 1948, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी रेग्यूलेटरी कमीशन एक्ट 1998, ये तीनों कानून रद्द हो जायेंगे। यह नया कानून हमने आने वाले पचास-सौ साल के लिए बनाया है, इस संसद ने बनाया है। इसे बनाते समय यदि इसमें कुछ खामियां रह जाती हैं, उन खामियों को अगर सदन में सरकार के समक्ष रखा जाता है, तो यदि आवश्यक है तो उस पर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: ऐसा नहीं है।

श्री अनन्त गंगाराम गीते: सभापति जी, आप मुझसे सहमत होंगे। यदि उसमें खामियां हैं और उसमें सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है। तो सरकार उसके लिए तैयार है। इसी संदर्भ में कुछ अमेंडमेंट राज्य सभा में दिए गए हैं। हमने आश्वासन दिया है संसद के इस सदन में लाने का और इस आश्वासन को निश्चित रूप में हम पूरा करेंगे।

Joint Patrolling at Indo-Bangladesh Border

*149. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSF and Bangladesh Rifles have jointly agreed for patrolling along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, whether the modalities for joint patrolling have been worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The modalities for the joint patrolling by Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles have not yet been worked out.